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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Outer Continental Shelf: Operations, Current List of Notices to Lessees and Operators (NTLs) Issued by the National Office and OCS Regions

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The MMS periodically issues NTLs to lessees and operators of oil and gas or sulphur leases in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). This Federal Register notice: (1) informs the public, industry, and other Government agencies of NTLs that are in effect as of November 1, 1998; (2) officially rescinds several NTLs and Letters to Lessees and Operators (LTLs); and (3) announces a new method of numbering regional NTLs.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain copies of NTLs through our website at WWW.MMS.GOV or by contacting the National office or the OCS Region that issued the NTL at the following addresses:

National Office:

Minerals Management Service, Engineering and Operations Division, 381 Elden Street, Herndon, VA 20170-4817, Attention: Ms. Alexis London; Telephone (703) 787-1600.

Alaska OCS Region:

Minerals Management Service, 949 East 36th Avenue, Room 308, Anchorage, AK 99508-4363, Attention: Ms. Christine Huffaker; Telephone (907) 271-6621.

Gulf of Mexico (GOM) OCS Region:

Minerals Management Service, 1201 Elmwood Park Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70123-2394, Attention: Mr. Michael Dorner; Telephone (504) 736-2599.

Pacific OCS Region:

Minerals Management Service, 770 Paseo Camarillo, Camarillo, CA 93010-6064, Attention: Ms. Freddie Mason; Telephone (805) 389-7566.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alexis London, Engineering and Operations Division; Telephone (703) 787-1600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MMS is responsible for oil and gas or sulphur operations in the OCS to ensure operational safety and protection of the environment. In addition to our regulations, we issue NTLs to provide guidance and to further clarify, interpret, or describe regulatory requirements on a national or regional basis. In the past we have also issued LTLs for this purpose or to communicate information to OCS lessees and operators.

Recently issued final regulations have eliminated the need for certain NTLs and LTLs or have required changes in others. This year we have also updated and reissued many of our NTLs to reflect current technologies, correct regulatory citations, and include a statement on the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 as it pertains to the NTL.

For your convenience, the following table lists the current active NTLs issued by the National office and the OCS Regions. Therefore, if an NTL issued before November 1, 1998, is not listed, it is canceled and no longer in effect. However, although not listed here, those LTLs currently in effect will remain in effect until they are superseded by NTLs or rescinded.

NTL Number	Effective Date	Title/Subject
Current Notices to Lessees and Operators Issued by the National Office		
93-1N	04/16/93	Guidelines for an Application for Certificate of Oil Spill Financial Responsibility for Offshore Facilities
96-7N*	12/10/96	Civil Penalties Program (*Modified by 97-5N)
97-2N	08/01/97	Well Naming and Numbering Standards
97-3N	08/01/97	Annual Performance Review
97-4N	09/01/97	Civil Penalties Program Annual Summary to be Published
97-5N*	10/07/97	Civil Penalties Program Revised Assessment Matrix (*Modifies 96-7N)
98-1N	01/02/98	Interim Guidance for Applying Platform Design Criteria from American Petroleum Institute (API) Recommended Practice (RP) 2A, "Planning, Designing, and Constructing Fixed Offshore Platforms," 19 th Edition (8/1/91) and 20 th Edition (7/1/93) and its Supplement 1 (2/1/97)
98-2N	01/23/98	Guidance Regarding API Specification 14A, "Specification for Subsurface Safety Valve Equipment," Ninth Edition (7/1/94) and Supplement 1
98-4N	03/04/98	Interim Guidance for Applying "Simplified Fatigue Analysis" Procedure from API RP 2A. . . .
98-5N	04/01/98	Application and Audit Fees for Requests for Royalty Relief or Adjustment Under 30 CFR Part 203
98-6N	04/01/98	Performance Measures for OCS Operators and Form MMS-131
98-7N	04/15/98*	Reminder Concerning Periodic Inspection of Platforms. . . . (*Rescind on 11/2/98)
98-8N	06/01/98	Deepwater Operations Plans
98-9N & Addendum	06/01/98* 07/17/98	Redesignation of 30 CFR Part 250--Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the OCS (*Rescind on 12/31/98)
98-10N	07/01/98	Decentralization of the Lessee Training Program

NTL Number	Effective Date	Title/Subject
98-11N	07/01/98*	Guidelines for an Application for Suspension of Production Due to Uneconomic Market Conditions (*10/15/98 <u>Federal Register</u> notice, 63 FR 55405, as corrected, announced this NTL will be rescinded effective 1/13/99)
98-12N	07/01/98	Determination of Pollution Inspection Frequencies for Unmanned Facilities
98-13N	07/01/98	Use of New or Alternative Technology and Procedures
98-14N	07/01/98	Conservation Information
98-15N	08/24/98*	Invitation to Minerals Management Service (MMS)/Industry Performance Measures/Best Practices Workshops (*Rescind on 11/13/98)
98-16N	10/28/98	API Specification 6D (SPEC 6D), Specification for Pipeline Valves (Gate, Plug, Ball, and Check Valves), 21 st Edition (3/31/94), and Supplements 1 and 2
98-17N	11/01/98	Revised Guidelines for Royalty Relief Under 30 CFR Part 203
No current Notices to Lessees and Operators Issued by the Alaska OCS Region		
Current Notices to Lessees and Operators Issued by the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region		
85-02	02/04/85	Effect of Drilling "Window" Approvals
86-05	06/18/86	New Form for Designation of Operator
92-02	05/28/92	Minimum Interim Requirements for Site Clearance (and Verification) of Abandoned Oil and Gas Structures in the GOM
92-04	07/01/92	Interim Requirements for Oil Spill Contingency Plans and Oil Spill Response Training and Drills
93-04	09/30/93	OCS Functional Responsibility of New Regulations
94-02	02/24/94	Air Emissions Reporting Requirements
96-03	05/08/96	Guidelines for the Offshore Storage and Sub-Seabed Disposal of Wastes Resulting from the Development and Production of Oil and Gas on the OCS
96-08	11/25/96	Time Allowed for the Correction of Incidents of Noncompliance (INC's) and for the Return of Notification of INC Forms

NTL Number	Effective Date	Title/Subject
96-10	12/05/96	Air Emissions Information for Application for Accessory Platforms to Pipeline Rights-of-Way
97-04	01/31/97	Addition of Blocks to the Thirty-fifth Drilling Window
97-06	03/01/97	Timely Submittal of Drilling Well Records in Accordance with 30 CFR 250.66 [Redesignated 30 CFR 250.416]
97-07	03/01/97	Revised Conditions of Approval to Drill, Sidetrack and/or Complete for Oil and Gas Production
97-15	06/27/98	Interim Guidance for Regional Oil Spill Response Plans
97-16	08/01/97	Production Within 500 Feet of a Unit or Lease Line
97-17	08/01/97	Containment Requirements for Bolted or Welded Stock Tanks
97-18	08/18/97	Timely Submittal of Deepwater Royalty Relief Applications
98-04	06/08/98	Hurricane and Tropical Storm Evacuation and Production Curtailment Procedures
98-05	07/01/98	Confirmation of Deepwater Royalty Relief for Leases Issued After November 28, 1995
98-06	08/10/98	Archaeological Requirements
98-07	08/10/98	Procedures Regarding Activities Conducted Under Approved Plan
98-08	08/10/98	Meteorological Data Collection Requirements
98-09	08/10/98	Proposed and As-Built Pipeline Location Data
98-10	08/10/98	Best Available Control Technology (Sulphur Dioxide)
98-11	08/10/98	Implementation of Measures to Detect and Protect Deep Water Chemosynthetic Communities
98-12	08/10/98	Implementation of Consistent Biological Stipulation Measures in the Central and Western Gulf of Mexico
98-13	08/10/98	Minimizing Oil and Gas Structures in the Gulf of Mexico
98-14	08/10/98	Guidelines for Reducing or Eliminating Trash and Debris in the Gulf of Mexico

NTL Number	Effective Date	Title/Subject
98-15	08/10/98	Time Allowed Between Lease Holding Operations (30 CFR 250.13 [Redesignated 30 CFR 250.113])
98-16	08/10/98	Hydrogen Sulfide (H ₂ S) Requirements
98-17	06/30/98*	Gas Volume Statement Requirements (*Rescind on 12/31/98)
98-18	09/01/98	Change of Address for the Submittal of Certain Drilling Records in Accordance with 30 CFR 250.416
98-19	09/15/98	Temporary Abandonment of Wells and Maintenance, Protection and Removal of Underwater Casing Stubs
98-20	09/15/98	Shallow Hazards Requirements
98-21	09/15/98	Environmental Information Guidelines for OCS Plans
98-22	10/05/98	Reorganization of the Office of Field Operations to Activate the Lake Charles District, Realign the District Boundaries, and Establish District and Pipe Section Procedures for After-Hours, Weekend and Holiday Calls, and Related Submittals
98-23	10/15/98	Interim Reporting Requirements for 30 CFR 250, Subpart K, Oil and Gas Production Rates
98-24	10/15/98	Rate Control Section Address, Office Hours, and Telephone Procedures
98-25	11/01/98	Economic Assumptions for RSVP Deepwater Royalty Relief Model
Current Notices to Lessees and Operators Issued by the Pacific OCS Region		
92-01	03/24/92	Warning Signs: Pipelines and Power Cables
97-02	09/22/97	Pipeline Right-of-Way Applications and Assignment Fees: Requirements for Filing of Lease Transfers
98-01	03/05/98	Santa Maria District Office Phone Call Procedures and Hours
98-02	03/05/98	Camarillo District Office Phone Call Procedures and Hours
98-04	07/01/98	Gas Volume Statement Requirements
98-05	08/04/98	Archaeological Survey and Report Requirements

NTL Number	Effective Date	Title/Subject
98-06	08/04/98	Change of Ownership/Operatorship of Leases and Pipeline
98-07	08/04/98	Helideck Closures
98-08	08/04/98	Biological Survey Criteria
98-09	08/11/98	Hydrogen Sulfide (H ₂ S) Requirements
98-10	08/21/98	Liquid Royalty Measurement Facilities
98-11	08/31/98	Submission of Digitized Well Log Data on Magnetic Tape
98-12	08/11/98	Guidelines for Shallow Hazards and Report Requirements for Exploration Drilling
98-13	08/11/98	Guidelines for Shallow Hazards and Report Requirements for OCS Development Operations

You are advised that effective with the publication of this notice, we are officially rescinding the following previously issued NTLs and LTLs that are no longer current, have served their purpose, or because recently revised regulations and policies have eliminated the need for them.

National office:

93-02N - Liability of Assignors, Assignees, and Colessees for Plugging and Removal

Property on Termination of An Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Lease.

95-01N - Suspension of Requirements for Updating Safety and Pollution Prevention

Equipment Inventory Lists.

96-02N - Reporting Oil Spills.

97-01N - Blowout Preventer (BOP) Requirements.

Alaska OCS Region:

82 -01- Interim Minimum Requirements for Marking of Equipment.

86-02 - Preliminary and Other Activities Conducted on Leased Lands - Beaufort Sea.

89-01 - Minimizing Potential for Incidental Taking of Polar Bear and Walrus During Preliminary and Other Activities Conducted on Leased Areas in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas.

89-02 - Preliminary Activities, Shallow Hazards Geophysical Surveys and Geotechnical Evaluations.

Gulf of Mexico OCS Region:

73-03 - The Use of Polychlorinated Biphenols (PCB's).

88-02 - Submission of List of Safety and Pollution-Prevention Equipment.

88-03 - Information to Be Made Available to the Public on the Reports Required in Subpart K of 30 CFR Part 250.

89-05 - Timelapse in Exploratory Drilling Operations Not to Exceed 180 Days for Deepwater (400 Meters or Deeper) Leases.

89-07 - Supplemental Bonds.

91-01 - Submittal of Electric, Radioactive, and Other Well Bore Surveys.

91-06 - Notice to the Designated Operators of Liquid Royalty Measurement Facilities.

93-05 - Procedures and Policies Concerning Transition Period for Use of the New Semiannual Well Test Report Form.

96-04 - Air Pollutant Emissions Reporting Requirements.

96-05 - Departures for Testing Blowout Preventers (BOP).

97-01 - Air Pollution Emissions Reporting Requirement.

97-05 - Incorporation by Reference into the MMS Regulations of API RP 2A Nineteenth Edition, August 1, 1991, for Planning, Designing, and Constructing Fixed Offshore Platforms.

97-11 - Special Security Handling of Well Logs and Data Generated from Oil and Gas Leases.

LTL dated 07/20/95 - Requests for Suspensions of Operations Based on Rig Delays.

LTL dated 07/25/96 - Suspensions of Productions/Operations Program Overview.

Pacific OCS Region:

80-02 - Minimum Requirements for Environmental Reports.

88-05 - Requirements for Exploratory Operations OCS California.

97-03 - Invitation to Workshop.

98-03 - Invitation to Royalty Relief Workshop.

LTL dated 06/26/95 - Contacts and Functional Directory.

LTL dated 02/15/96 - Guidelines for the Application, Review, Approval and Administration of the Royalty Relief Program.

This notice also advises you that beginning in January 1999, we will include a letter designation in regional as well as National NTL numbers to avoid possible confusion with duplicate numbers. The letter designation before the NTL number will indicate whether it applies on a National basis or to which specific Region it pertains. For example:

- NTL 99-N01 will apply on a National basis.
- NTL 99-A01 will pertain only to the Alaska OCS Region.
- NTL 99-G01 will pertain only to the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.
- NTL 99-P01 will pertain only to the Pacific OCS Region.

OCT 30 1998

Dated.

/s/

Michael C. Hunt, Acting

Associate Director for Offshore

Minerals Management.